

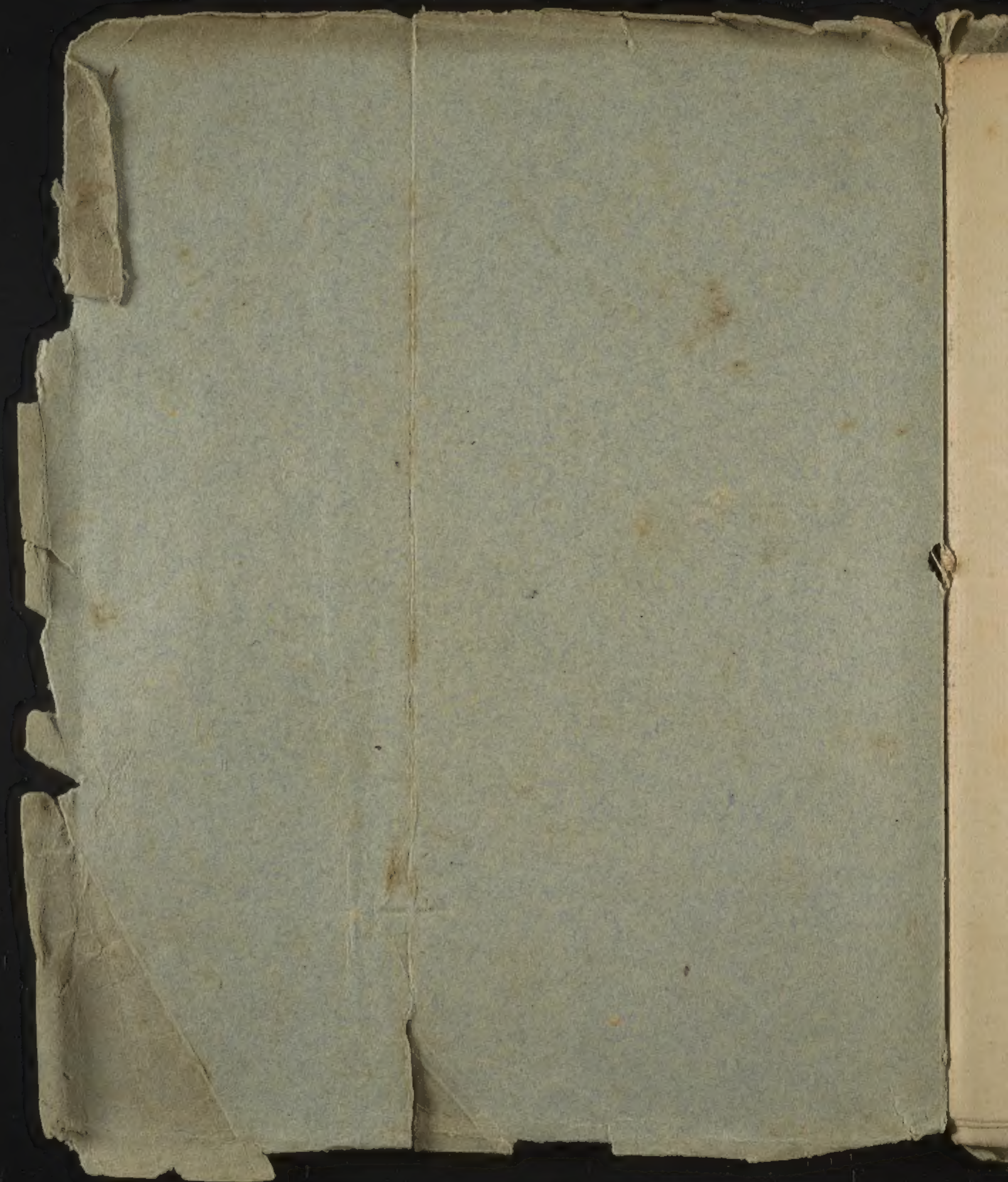
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Introductory Lecture  
on the  
Certainty of  
Medicine.

Delivered Nov<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 1795

& Nov<sup>r</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 1798

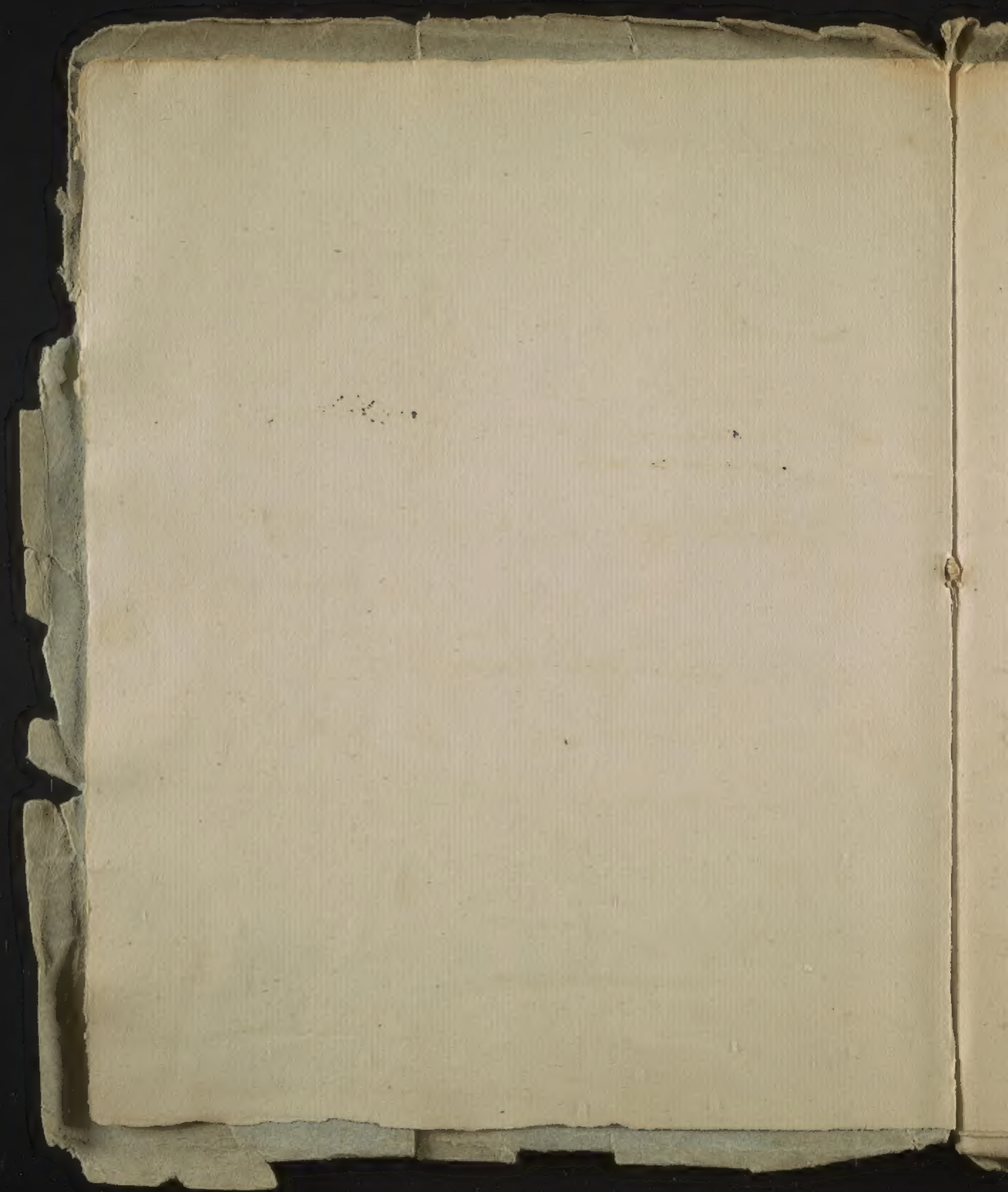






5







1  
Gentlemen /

The uncertainty of medicine  
~~has been~~ is a very common subject of  
complaint. It has been propagated  
by <sup>the enemies of our profession,</sup> ~~philosophers~~, and in many instances  
has been admitted by Physicians. The  
design of the present lecture is to in-  
quire <sup>how far the complaint</sup> ~~into the truth of~~ is founded in  
truth, and to show that it originates  
in ~~ignorance~~ a want of a due conception  
of the extent & usefulness of the science  
of medicine, ~~and~~

In speaking upon this subject  
we are first led to <sup>remark</sup> ~~mention~~ that  
immense <sup>number of truths</sup> ~~obtained~~ ~~which~~



v i all the different states of  
fever. I shall mention in this  
place, <sup>but two</sup> ~~only those~~ of them which  
when left to themselves <sup>generally</sup> ~~generally~~  
~~often~~ prove fatal, but which in 99  
cases of out an 100 yield to medi-  
-cine. These are the pleurisy - the  
Dysentery. <sup>common</sup> ~~the intermitting fever.~~



have been <sup>discovered & established</sup> ~~found~~ in all the collateral  
sciences of medicines, particularly  
in Anatomy, Chemistry, Botany &  
the *materia medica*. ~~This must be admitted.~~

~~to~~ But as the objections to the certainty  
of medicine are aimed chiefly <sup>at</sup> ~~to~~  
the limited state of our knowledge  
of the art of healing, <sup>exclusive of surgery,</sup> I shall con-  
fine myself to a short detail of  
the diseases in which medicines af-  
ford certain & almost universal  
relief. —

These are ~~fevers~~ <sup>✓</sup> of all kinds. ~~But~~  
~~it may be said here I know it will~~  
~~be said here that fevers are often~~  
~~fatal. This cannot~~ ~~must~~ ~~happen~~  
~~while so many circumstances oppose~~



Disease  
 of the venereal virus the course of  
 the reproach of medicine now  
 unlawful embraces ~~you~~ yields  
~~Dr. Ross~~  
 in every case to mercury.



3

~~from the ignorance & <sup>poverty</sup> fears of patients  
oppose regular & just practice, but  
where these circumstances do not  
occur, fevers are as much under  
the command of medicine as the  
typh; or the small pox.~~

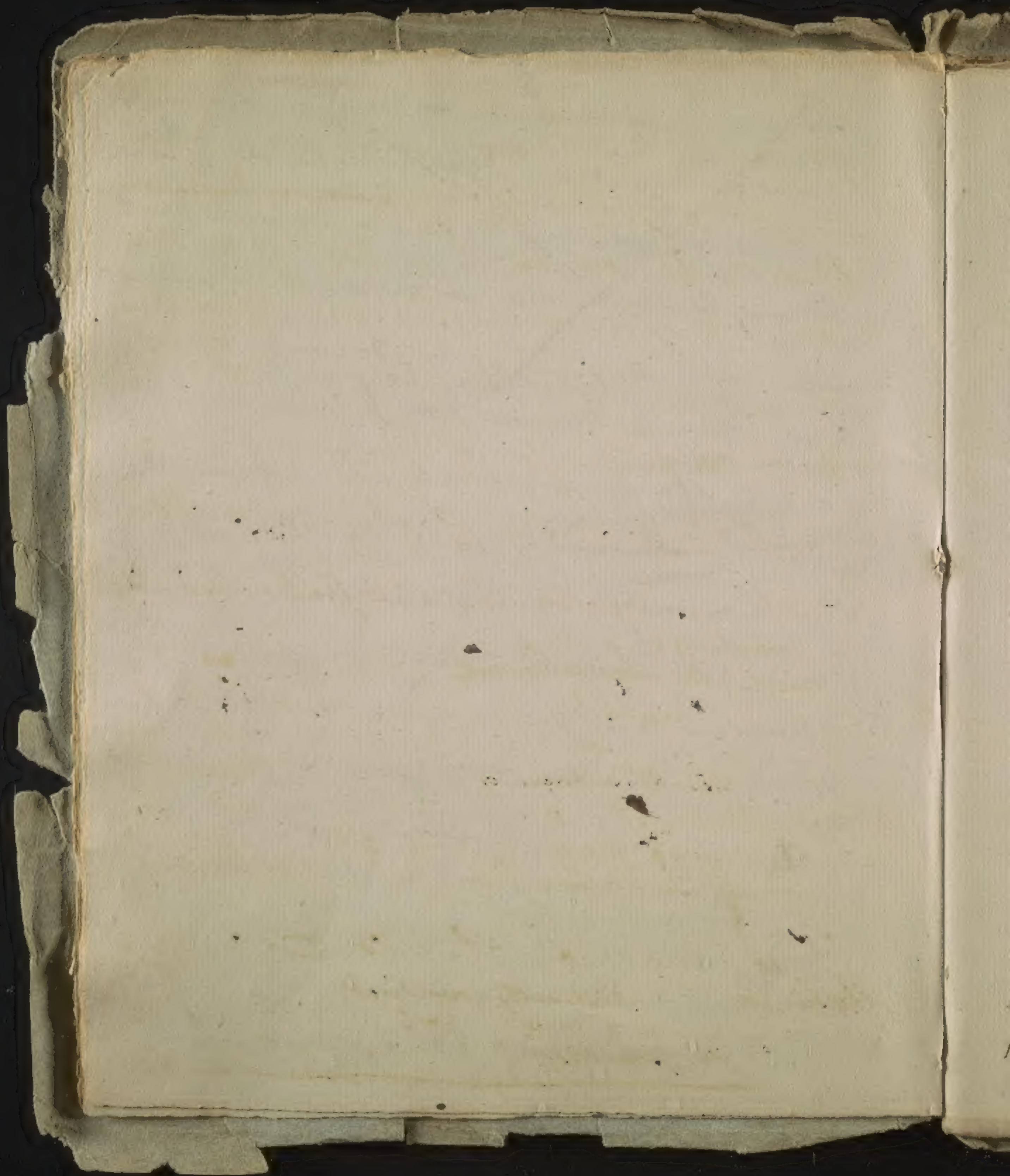
2 of the diseases which affect the  
nervous <sup>system</sup> ~~diseases~~, viz adneps, the Hysteria,  
the Hypochondriasis, and the locked  
Jaw, and several other convulsive  
affections are all more or less subject  
to medicine when it is applied in their recent  
state.

4 Cutaneous diseases yield in almost  
every instance to the power of medicine.

<sup>Hemorrhages</sup>  
3. ~~Dr~~ Dropsies in every part of the body  
have been and daily prevented, or cured.

~~The benefit of~~ It is true the







some of 4  
practice in those Diseases, is not  
uniformly successful. ~~the Physicians~~

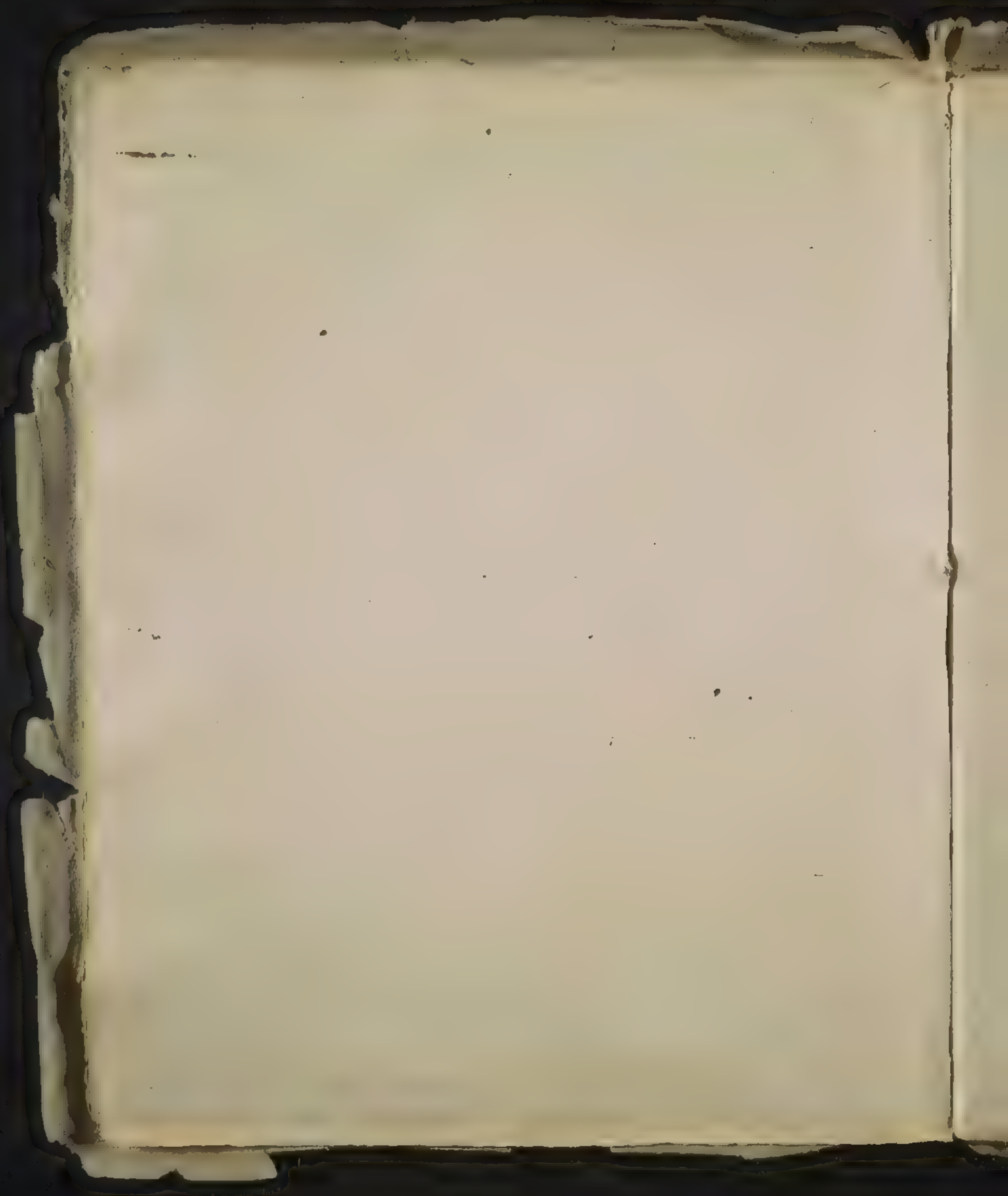
But the fault ~~is~~ here lies with Physi-  
cians, & not in the Science of medicine.

It is no objection to the certainty  
and usefulness of the Compass,  
that the natives of Kamocatla  
still navigate their vessels by ~~the~~

coasting,  
~~going a lee shore~~, nor does the  
used by in writing  
characters of the Chinese, call in  
the advantages of  
Question, the summary mode of  
conveying ideas means of  
~~fixing~~ ~~ideas~~ by an Alphabet.

I contend for the certainty of  
the Science <sup>abstractly considered</sup>  
Medicine, not for the certainty  
of that <sup>its practice</sup> knowledge ~~which~~ of the







~~propensity~~ as it <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ caused by many  
Physicians. many things concur  
to prevent the ~~advantages~~ of the  
discoveries which have <sup>been</sup> made in  
medicine from becoming generally  
useful; such particularly as  
the want of reading & observations  
among Physicians, and an indis-  
willingness <sup>new and unpopular</sup> to adopt ~~remedies~~ <sup>which</sup>  
~~are recommended by~~  
~~were introduced into persons~~  
~~to whose use it they are unwilling~~  
~~to do homage.~~ But this does  
not militate against the certainty  
of medicine, any more than



✓ The certainty of medicine is  
often limited by the want of  
fidelity or punctuality in patients  
in complying with the prescriptions  
of their physicians, & ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~firmly~~  
~~seasons~~ by the inability of Physi-  
cians <sup>in sickly seasons</sup> to visit their patients <sup>at</sup>  
those hours in which alone their  
prescriptions can be applied with  
success. — The ~~mortality~~ <sup>moreover</sup> prevalence  
of error in medicine ~~in a city or~~  
~~country~~ <sup>sometimes</sup> ~~often~~ <sup>prevents</sup> affects the ~~influence~~  
~~& successful~~  
of just ~~&~~ practice in a city or coun-  
try, for as ~~men~~ <sup>Physicians</sup> of numerous  
minds often diffuse rays of



6  
a man's shutting his eyes at  
noon days militates against the  
the arguments in favor of the ex-  
-istence of light. — But <sup>again</sup> ~~for this~~,

It is said ~~that medicine~~ by the  
enemies of <sup>our profession</sup> ~~medicine~~, that Surgery  
is <sup>more</sup> a certain ~~in the relief it affords~~

than medicine. This Opinion is  
general, but a little reflection  
will show that it is not just.  
~~The objects of Surgery compared  
with those of medicine are  
in the ratio of one to twenty,  
of course the~~ How different is



knowledge into sick rooms which  
they are not permitted to enter,  
so Physicians of <sup>a contrary character,</sup> ~~Dark~~ <sup>envies</sup> often  
spread their errors by means of their  
patients ~~or pupils~~ into rooms,  
where they defeat the best concerted  
plans of cure, & thus lessen the  
<sup>Success & credit</sup> ~~appearance of~~ certainty of medicine.

[The <sup>of diseases</sup> ~~mortality~~ produced by ~~all~~  
these causes does not detract from  
the certainty of medicine, for it be-  
-longs to the perfection of our science  
to predict death <sup>with certainty</sup> from the neglect of  
~~proper~~ <sup>a proper</sup> remedies applied in ~~their~~  
time, ~~in~~ manner, as much as it  
- ~~goes~~ to cure diseases. —  
Consultations are a further source



the issue of amputation or cutting  
 for the stone, to inoculations for  
 the small pox? & How far are  
 subject to the diseases which are  
 - the former operations necessary  
 to save life! whereas the small  
 pox affects the whole human  
 Race; & according to some writers  
 destroys a 6<sup>th</sup> part of all who are  
 seized with it in the natural  
 way. But Surgery is not an  
 independent Art. It borrows  
 much of its certainty & useful-  
 -ness from medicine, ~~for~~



of the uncertainty of ~~medicine~~ <sup>our profession.</sup> The  
boldness in practice which is inspired  
by the Union of reason <sup>in a man of genius,</sup> and experience,  
is often ~~defeated~~ <sup>frustrated</sup> by the mechanical  
formalities of an old, ~~and~~ or by the  
timidity ~~for teaching~~ of a young Physician,  
by which means medicine is often rob-  
-bed of its merited & well earned honors.  
But there <sup>are</sup> frequently two, or more methods  
of curing the same disease. Now in  
consultations between Physicians who  
have been in the habit of curing the  
same disease by different remedies, no  
fixed plan of cure is adopted, & the patient  
dies, under a half way practice between  
two methods, either of which might  
have cured him, had it been pursued



of Bleeding, Diet  
particularly from ~~Bark~~, Wine  
and Opium.

I have said that the Uncertainty  
of medicine has sometimes been  
admitted by Physicians. It may  
be useful in this place to inquire  
into the causes of this seeming  
Candor in the members of our  
profession. It appears to originate  
in Indolence, or a disposition too  
torpid to inquire into the extent  
and certainty of the principles  
of medicine: ~~The body in this~~  
~~can evince upon the~~



to its full extent. The mortality of diseases, produced by all these causes, does not detract from the certainty of medicine, for it belongs to the perfection of our science, to predict death with certainty from the neglect, or misapplication of remedies, as much it does to cure diseases.

It has been said that there is no certainty in the operation of medicines. This Assertion is founded upon a superficial view of the power of the medicines, & an ignorance of the laws of the Animal Economy. - I grant that ~~some~~ Ipecacuanha will not always excite a vomiting, nor Salap<sup>unifolius</sup> discharge the contents of the



2. A superstitious <sup>p: 9</sup> respect for preceptors  
in medicine, and <sup>for</sup> ~~of~~ eminent Physicians  
has contributed very much to ~~the~~ <sup>prevent</sup>  
the attainment of ~~the~~ <sup>in</sup> certainty of  
~~proper confidence~~ in the certainty of  
medicine. There are few diseases more  
easily ~~explained~~, or more certainly cured,  
than the internal Dropsy of the <sup>in its early stage,</sup> brain  
but it is generally considered as incurable  
~~only~~ <sup>only</sup> because Dr Cullen has not cured it  
among inflammatory diseases, and  
because Dr Monro has declared that  
he never cured a case of it in his  
life. —







mind, & ~~abstracts~~<sup>9</sup> from it all  
its ~~natural activity~~. for

3<sup>rd</sup> Incapacity is another source  
of scepticism in medicine. men  
deny the existence of truths which  
they are unable to comprehend.

4<sup>th</sup> Envy in the ~~2<sup>nd</sup>~~<sup>3<sup>rd</sup></sup> place shuts the  
mind up against ~~receiving~~<sup>believing</sup> the  
certainty of medicine, more especially when  
discoveries are made in it by persons  
who are competitors for business  
or fame.

5<sup>th</sup> Vanity has a large share of  
influence in disposing Physicians



bricks, but this does not invalidate  
the certainty of their characters  
of medicines, ~~for~~ but if we are able to  
account for the failure of their  
till in all cases the  
operation, ~~is all~~ <sup>refute</sup> we destroy the  
objection to the ~~uncertainty~~ <sup>now</sup> of  
their character as medicines. We  
know that ~~even~~ inflammation, <sup>and</sup>  
congestion in the brain impart  
a torpor to the Stomach & alimentary  
canal, and this knowledge consti-  
tutes a part of the certainty of  
medicine for which I am contending.  
Thus a knowledge of the variations of  
the ~~comp~~ magnetic needle in certain lati-  
tudes constitutes a part of the perfection  
of the science of navigation. — go back to p. 6.



to deny the certainty of medicine.  
~~as a means of~~ This scepticism in  
 medicine presupposes that a Physician  
 has examined the <sup>arguments in</sup> ~~evidence of~~  
<sup>favor of certain</sup> opinions, and that his decision  
 is founded upon a defect of evidence  
 to support them. Now this being

seldom the case, the decision ~~is~~  
 should by no means operate against the Certainty of medicine.

~~an act of improvidence equally~~

~~characteristic~~  
~~declaratory of vanity & impudence.~~

~~I have sometimes~~ Did these

medical Sceptics when they

speak of the Uncertainty of

medicine, comfort themselves







to the first person of the singular  
number, they ~~had~~ would be more  
excusable, but when they include  
the whole profession by declaring  
as they often do upon difficult  
subjects that "we know no-  
thing about them" they ~~discover~~<sup>add to</sup>  
~~a degree~~ their vanity a large share  
of impudence.

The source of scepticism in medicine  
is derived from infidelity <sup>in</sup> religion.  
— men who have renounced the  
evidence of their reason & senses  
upon moral & theological subjects,  
~~are~~ cannot be consistent upon







without carrying this evidence  
upon medical subjects. This  
Scepticism in medicine is extremely  
flattering to the Sceptics in Religion,  
~~and hence we find doctrinal physi-~~  
~~cians are often preferred by them.~~

- ~~But~~ It is natural for such persons  
to conclude that if, in a science <sup>all</sup> ~~to~~  
whose facts are obvious to our  
senses, there is ~~some~~ no certainty;  
equal or greater uncertainty  
must hang over the doctrines  
of Christianity] —

Having pointed out the sources  
~~from whence to improve~~  
of Scepticism in medicine, it will  
among Physicians, I shall only







~~be natural to expect the most~~  
~~improvement.~~ The most ~~obvious~~  
~~mention~~ one of its ~~most obvious~~ effects,  
 and that is the most palpable <sup>does</sup>  
fraud. [With what face ~~can~~  
 a Physician charge for services  
 which he has rendered at random  
 to his patients? <sup>of a Physician</sup> Why does not  
 the ~~his~~ hand, ~~to~~ <sup>in</sup> writing  
 a prescription for a disease  
 the cause of  
 of which he confesses himself to  
 be ignorant? <sup>what</sup> And with <sup>face</sup> does  
 a Physician ~~charge~~  
 a ~~Physician~~ charge for services  
 which he has rendered at ran-  
 -dom to his patients? Should  
 we ~~employ an artist~~ Should an



V  
~~John~~ ~~head~~ of a Clergyman in  
One of the West India Islands ~~was~~  
was <sup>one</sup> sent for, from a Card table to  
visit one of his parishoners who  
was dying, & who it was told him  
was in great Distress about his  
future state. The Clergyman visited  
him, and upon returning to his  
Seat at the Card table, was asked  
by one of the company how he had  
left ~~his~~ the dying man. He said  
"quite happy" for he <sup>had</sup> removed all  
his fears in a moment by letting  
him into the secret." — "What secret"  
said the gentleman — "Why — that there  
is no future state answered the Clergyman,



Artificer after <sup>14</sup> failing in ~~building~~ erecting  
a piece of machinery  
~~a house, tell his employer,~~

~~that he knew and paid~~  
tell his employer that he was  
ignorant of the business he had  
undertaken, ~~would he~~ what  
should we think of him? would  
we justify an extravagant charge  
for his labor, or would we not  
rather approve of that sentence  
of a Court, which should ~~compel~~  
punish him as an impostor  
"by compelling him to make  
restitution" for the money he  
had ignorantly expended? V

~~Let the scepter in medicine act~~



and that religion was all nothing but  
a fable. Equally criminal is that  
Physician who <sup>exercises the profession</sup> ~~denies the certainty~~  
~~of medicine~~ of medicine, and denies  
its certainty in most of ~~the~~ the dis-  
eases which come under his notice.

I have <sup>heard of</sup> ~~known~~ a Physician <sup>to</sup> ~~whom~~  
extensive business & reputation to ~~all~~ whom  
~~all that has been said upon~~ <sup>all the</sup> causes  
of Scepticism in medicine, that have  
~~been~~ <sup>of that</sup>

been enumerated, applied in the  
most extensive manner. ~~This~~  
~~reputation~~ This man's education  
was originally very slender, and  
his reading extremely limited. His  
~~visits to his patients were short, &~~  
~~by~~ generally all subjects were



~~honestly. If he cannot attain~~  
~~to principles in it, let him resign~~  
~~the profession. He is at~~  
~~the speculative lecture in medicine~~  
~~may be not an honest man,~~  
~~but a <sup>sceptical</sup> physician who exercises~~  
~~the profession for his subsistence~~  
~~is as much an impostor as a~~  
~~person who exercises the functions~~  
~~of a Priest without believing~~  
~~in the principles of Christianity].~~

We have already attained to  
 certainty in at least 9 diseases out  
 of ~~ten~~ ten. But this <sup>premature</sup> removal  
 of ~~pain~~ the dominion of death



more agreeable to him than  
medicine. He hurried from sick  
rooms to public dinners, and  
teaparties, where he usually  
spent four or five hours of every  
day, ~~and yet with these his charac-~~  
~~ter, he decided upon all subjects of~~  
~~controversy he maintained for me~~  
~~the~~ In all companies he spoke  
with contempt of the profession of  
medicine - and laughed at every  
attempt to apply ~~the~~ reason to  
it. And yet with this character,  
he ~~maintained~~ <sup>for many years</sup> governed the  
medical  
opinions & practice of the city in  
which he lived. A Brother Importor



over the human body, shall not al-  
ways continue. Absolute abstinence  
I believe  
is attainable in medicine. [Yes - there  
does not exist a disease for which  
there does not exist a remedy. -  
This must be true, or God would  
not be kind <sup>powerful or good.</sup> ~~wise~~ ~~kind~~ ~~and~~ ~~wise~~.

Hear this ye friends & Benefactors  
of mankind, who have sighed in  
secret over the ~~pain~~ misery which  
diseases ~~have~~ produce in our world.  
- May this misery shall have an end.  
~~Death shall be~~ The empire of death  
by means of disease shall  
one day be limited, & old age shall



in medicine pronounced his Elogium  
when he died, by declaring "that  
he was the greatest physician  
that ever lived, for that he knew  
& acknowledged the uncertainty of his  
profession". —

✓ will moreover be able by  
means of this knowledge to ~~be~~  
~~to be led to prefer~~  
~~able~~ to distinguish ~~real~~ physicians  
rational & philosophical physicians,  
& to prefer them to  
~~to~~ Quacks and impostors.



finally be the <sup>only</sup> outlet of human Life.

This <sup>Certainly</sup> ~~perfection~~ in the ~~science~~ of ~~medicine~~ <sup>probably</sup> I believe will be brought about in the ~~the~~ following ways. —

1 The knowledge of ~~the~~ the principles of medicine will become so general that the people at large by knowing, will avoid the remote, predisposing & exciting causes of diseases. They ✓

2 The principles & ~~powerful~~ operations of Chemistry will be so enlarged, as to enable mankind by heat & mixture to destroy the active qualities of the remote causes of diseases by ~~the~~ those powerful







agents - heat & mixture. — al-  
 ready has Chemistry taught us many  
 things upon this subject. It has  
 taught us that fire will destroy  
 the contagion of the small, <sup>pox,</sup> and  
 water the ~~miasmata~~ & contagious  
<sup>and miasmata</sup> of the plague & yellow fever. I  
 have heard a gentleman of a  
 philosophical character in London  
 ridiculed for saying that he believed  
 "the time would come when a  
 man should be able to put his  
 head in the fire without being  
 burnt". I do not think there is  
 any thing <sup>or extravagant</sup> unphilosophical in  
 it.



✓ Knowledge it has been justly  
said is power, and philosophy  
is the empyre of Art over Na-  
ture. — <sup>of New York</sup> [Bromfield] in a late  
~~publication~~ has suggested many  
ingenious hints upon the subjects  
of the gapes which may lead us  
to the certain means of destroying  
them, & thereby of exterminating  
malignant & contagious ~~beasts~~ from



the opinion. ~~The~~ ~~Did~~ we not see  
 men breathe & ~~see~~ act as usual  
 under water by means of the diving  
 bell? To breathe & to ~~act~~ live under  
 water by means of a diving bell,  
 and to fly through the regions of  
 the air in a balloon, ~~a century~~  
 ago would have been thought  
 equally improbable events a cen-  
 tury ago. ~~Y. . .~~ I have long belie-  
 ved that the <sup>such of</sup> ~~1st~~ prophecies <sup>of the old & new testaments</sup> as relate  
 to the <sup>future changes in</sup> ~~1st~~ natural state of man,  
 and of our earth, will be brought  
 about by natural means.  
 There is to me therefore nothing



# the catalogue of human evils.

+ Lusk X. 19.

V<sup>3</sup> a Belief in the Unity of disease, and of  
debility being the predisposing cause of all its  
different forms will lead both <sup>patients &</sup> physicians  
to attack them in their forming state, at  
which ~~the~~ time they <sup>generally</sup> ~~often~~ yield to the most  
simple medicines. But where diseases come  
on as some do, without the premonitory symp-  
toms of debility, ~~the doctor does if we may judge from~~  
there is reason to ~~not~~ believe they may be cured  
if we are permitted to judge of ~~what~~ from what  
is <sup>that which</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> to come. go to p 22



improbable in that declaration  
of our Saviour to his disciples, in  
which he says "Behold, I give you  
power to tread ~~on~~ serpents & scorpions  
and all the power of the enemy, &  
nothing shall by any means  
hurt you" <sup>the Declaration</sup> whether it <sup>is</sup> be viewed  
by a philosophical, or a Christian  
eye. ~~It is~~ There can be no:  
thing in the poison of <sup>serpents or</sup> scorpions,  
more ~~so~~ destructive to life than  
arsenic, and <sup>yet</sup> that deadly mineral  
we know <sup>is</sup> rendered harmless by being com-  
bined with sulphur.

✓ ~~Suppose~~ ~~known~~ ~~page~~ ~~say~~ ~~of~~ ~~Franklin~~  
~~bin is~~ ~~power~~ ~~Philosophy~~ ~~is~~ ~~the~~ ~~essence~~ ~~of~~





Not over ~~empire nature~~.

~~3 Diseases shall~~

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and last method in which medicine shall ~~be~~ be brought to perfection will be, that diseases will in all cases yield to medicine.

Then the diseases which we call <sup>I have said</sup> ~~not cure~~ are very few compared

with those which do cure, ~~and~~ <sup>ch</sup>

Nor is this all, the diseases w<sup>h</sup>

still elude the ~~as~~ skill of Physicians

are by no means so formidable,

as those which have been sub-

dued by them. The Epilepsy





offers much less violence to the  
 system than a yellow fever, and  
 this disease we now know is  
 daily cured by not only by  
 Physicians, but by the nurses,  
 other persons <sup>up</sup> unacquainted with medicine,  
 and ~~free negroes~~. Within the  
 last twenty years the our faith  
 & hopes upon this subject, receive  
 great encouragement from  
 the triumphs of medicine within  
 the last twenty years. ~~far more~~  
 The fevers are, <sup>much</sup> less mortal ~~being~~  
 the difference between ~~at~~ ~~to~~ now  
 than they were <sup>30</sup> years ago.

The locked jaw has ceased to





in some measure to <sup>23</sup>  
be the terror of the planters in  
~~the several~~ those West India  
Islands in which the tonic  
remedies have been adapted.

The pulmonary consumption  
has been cured where a belief  
of its being a chronic pleurisy  
has led to the <sup>early use of</sup> ~~early use of~~ <sup>copious</sup>, or fre-  
-quent use of blood letting. Dropsies  
& hemorrhages have been much  
less fatal since they have been  
considered & treated as symptoms  
of a general fever. The gout  
is no longer considered as the  
reproach of our art. It has





yielded to the same remedies as  
 the different states of fever. Cancers  
 are as easily prevented as any other disease. by the  
~~have lately been deprived is a~~  
 early extirpation of tumors, in glandular parts of the  
~~great degree of their ~~own~~ deadly~~  
~~body.~~  
~~influence upon human life by~~  
~~means of a medicine which ap-~~  
~~pears to act specifically upon~~  
~~the extreme vessels thereby dis-~~  
~~posing them to a new & healthy~~  
~~action.~~ But these modern dis-  
 -coveries have gone further. They  
 have taught us to revive the  
 motions of life where they  
 appeared to be extinguished by





death. Hitherto ~~except~~ resuscita-  
tion has been confined only to  
persons who have ~~been~~ <sup>long</sup> been  
supposed to be dead from Drowning  
or <sup>from</sup> ~~by~~ other Accidents. But the time  
I believe will come, when the  
labors of Science & humanity will  
be employed in recovering persons  
who appear to die from fevers  
many other causes. [The particularly  
~~from~~ ~~fevers~~ we are authorized to adopt  
this opinion ~~not~~ by the <sup>discoveries</sup> ~~processes~~ <sup>^</sup>  
which have lately been made of the  
<sup>production</sup> ~~cause~~ of animal life by stimuli,  
and by the light which <sup>observations &c</sup> ~~dispositions~~ <sup>^</sup>





upon <sup>the</sup> external appearance of <sup>25</sup>  
have lately thrown ~~upon the cause of~~  
~~death the~~ and internal appearance  
of the body after death from fevers.  
motion which is one of the operations  
of life, certainly takes place after  
respiration ceases, and after persons  
who <sup>have had</sup> ~~died of~~ fevers, are supposed to be  
dead. This is evident in the accumu-  
- lation <sup>of heat in</sup> ~~of the~~ particular parts  
in the absorption, & diffusion of <sup>stagnating</sup> ~~water~~  
of the body & in the change of the  
fluids -  
countenance from a gloomy, to a  
pale form, in the occasional  
appearance ~~but~~ of a red color  
in one, or in both the cheeks &  
& in ~~any~~ the diffusion of a yellow





color after the whole, or a part  
of the body. This <sup>last appearance</sup> was frequently  
observed in the yellow fever in the  
year 1793 in persons after death  
who did not discover the least tinge  
of yellowness upon their bodies before  
they died. But this motion in the  
surface of the body has gone <sup>on</sup> ~~to~~  
further. ~~After death~~. Sweats have  
sometimes been observed to take  
place for many hours, & in one  
instance, which several days after  
death. It occurred in the case of  
<sup>a lady</sup> ~~Miss Henry the celebrated actress~~  
~~who~~ died in this city <sup>in 1794</sup> ~~of~~ the





maniacal state of fever. <sup>The</sup>  
 Stiffness of the limbs which so  
 soon succeeds death, is probably  
 in many cases, the effect of <sup>general</sup> ~~convulsion~~  
 convulsion, and may here after  
 be discovered to be nothing but a  
 chronic spasm of the muscular  
 system. — The internal appear-  
 -ances of the body after death  
 from fever, still more favour the  
 idea of the propriety of extending  
 the benefits of resuscitation to <sup>the</sup>  
 persons ~~cases~~ supposed to be dead from ~~fever~~  
 those diseases. ~~Unhappy dispositions~~  
~~show the signs to be avoided~~



except

29.

Death from fevers I shall say here:  
- after occurs from one of the three  
following causes. <sup>namely</sup> 1. ~~The~~ ~~effusion of~~  
~~blue serum or blood into organs~~  
disorganization of parts

whose actions are essential to  
~~except of morbid excitement, congestion, pressure~~ in:  
life by, ~~the effusions of blood,~~

inflammation, or mortification.

2<sup>ly</sup> from such a change in the fluids  
as renders them unfit for the  
purposes of life, and 3<sup>ly</sup> ~~lastly~~ from  
the total exhausted state of the excite-  
ment & excitability of the system  
which renders it incapable of  
being acted upon by the stimulus  
of medicine. Death from the





two last cases rarely occurs in acute fevers which terminate in 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11 days. Dissections <sup>Death</sup> show, that in nearly all cases of ~~fever~~ from fever, the viscera are in a state of ~~inflammation~~ disorganization, but in many cases this disorganization is very trifling, & in some cases in which marks of congestion have appeared in the viscera during sickness, there are no appearances of disorder after death. Now in all these cases of small disorganization, or of the total absence of it, the remedies for reexcitation might probably be used with success,





for the excitement of the system  
 is suspended only, and not exhausted,  
 and therefore might, by proper means,  
 be ~~very~~ easily restored. I suspect  
 this to be the ~~case~~ case, to take place  
 in all those cases in which death  
 occurs in the paroxysm of a fever,  
 or in the sudden absence of fever, &  
 after the use of powerful emetics  
 or purges, or too stimulating diet.

Under the influence of these opi-  
 -nions, I am disposed to believe  
 that <sup>many thousands</sup> ~~millions~~ of people ~~who have~~  
 have been buried alive in all ages  
 & in all countries. —

~~Let~~ were it possible for





us to be ignorant of the waking  
 state which necessarily follows sleep,  
 we should consider the restoration  
 of a <sup>man</sup> ~~human creature~~ from a  
<sup>recumbent posture</sup> ~~prostrate state~~, in which <sup>most of</sup> all the  
 functions of the body, & all the  
 faculties of the mind were sus-  
 pended, to ~~ascend~~ the sudden  
 use of <sup>his</sup> reason and limbs, as  
 an event equally <sup>improbable</sup> ~~incredible~~  
 with the resuscitation of a  
 body apparently dead from a  
 fever. — pp 30 to 35

Sacred history does not  
 inform us which of the proge-  
 nitors





of the human race was the longest  
liver, but I have sometimes  
thought the survivor

<sup>the 4<sup>th</sup> vol. of my medical</sup>  
I ~~was~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~my~~ <sup>my</sup> ~~introductory~~ <sup>years</sup> ~~lectures~~ <sup>inquiries & observations</sup>  
of last I mentioned an opinion

of Dr Hartley's upon the subject of  
propagation of Christianity by  
the ~~advancement~~ <sup>advancement</sup> of medicine.

means of the science of medicine  
to which I ~~then~~ yield my full

consent. He supposes that the  
healing art will be brought to

such perfection that missionaries

into pagan & mohammedan countries

shall recommend & establish

the doctrines of Christianity by



✓ already has this prediction of Dr Hartley's  
is part  
unfulfilled. In one

34  
performing ~~possible~~ cures by  
natural means, such as the  
Apostles performed by superna-  
tural power. ✓ Yes - I believe

they will not only ~~cure~~ the  
"plagues, and" heal all manner  
"of diseases", but that they will

by means equally natural,  
persons who are supposed to be  
raise ~~the~~ dead. — These tri:

umps over sickness & the grave,  
easily or cheaply  
will not be accomplished. without

a great expense of labor & ~~person~~

time. So they will probably ~~report~~ subject

the authors of them to the same

reproachful epithets to which





35

they exposed the apostles, for they  
will <sup>be</sup> equally contrary to received  
opinions & prejudices. But the  
minds that shall dare to <sup>wrest</sup> combat  
from the grasp ~~the~~ death his cold  
~~with descend into the cold regions~~  
of and breath life prey, shall  
~~not~~ have no dread of persecution.  
They shall rejoice in it. -

~~In contemplating these~~  
the <sup>genit.</sup> which I have given  
~~this~~ view of the approaching  
perfection of the healing art is not  
dictated by <sup>an imagination</sup> ~~my wishes~~ ~~unassisted~~  
~~with desires for the happiness~~  
my wishes alone. It is <sup>alike</sup> consonant  
to reason and revelation. In





contemplating the delightful change  
it will introduce into the state of  
our world, the heart swells with  
the most delightful emotions.

Then shall ~~every~~ <sup>immortal</sup> epidemic  
~~no more~~ cease to

cease to desolate our cities. How:

hospitals shall cease to be perpetual  
Lamentations the gem of <sup>of</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>and</sup> tears shall

prisons to the sick - ~~Tears shall~~  
<sup>no longer</sup> ~~cease~~ to follow ~~to~~ relations & friends to a  
cease to flow The ~~lingering~~ pains  
premature grave.

of ~~land~~ grief for the premature

death of friends & relations, shall

<sup>then</sup> be known no more. Here I am

tempted to repine at the present

limited duration of human life.

Long before this happy <sup>revolution</sup> ~~era~~ in





37  
the health & happiness of mankind  
shall arrive, ~~with~~ you & I Gent.  
shall be no more. — But a con-  
-solation is still left us under the  
-pressure of this mortifying fact.

- If we cannot share in the hap-  
-piness which we have <sup>deserving</sup> ~~anted~~ for  
our posterity, we can at least  
contribute to produce it, by devo-  
-ting our time & talents to the  
improvement of our science. [The  
we have lately shaken off an  
immense load of prejudices and  
error upon the subject of Govern-  
-ment. Let us do the same thing





with prejudice & error in medicine.  
~~Let us abandon the humble bargains~~  
 in which we have <sup>our native</sup> hugged the  
 shore, and venture upon voyages  
 of circumnavigation ~~is a vast~~  
~~space~~ many new remedies remain  
 yet to be <sup>discovered</sup> tried, and the extent &  
 force of ~~old~~ ones, remain yet to be  
 determined by new experiments.  
 The Baths of water, oil, air  
 and even, Earth have hitherto been  
 but feebly & partially applied in  
 diseases. ~~we are acquainted with~~  
 but our knowledge of the extreme  
 force of heat, <sup>is pasties</sup> & pasties in which  
 I include Cansties & boiling water as



V The active benefits ~~to be derived~~  
~~from~~ <sup>of</sup> the proper Direction of the  
active <sup>faculties</sup> principles of the mind, &  
~~above~~ particularly ~~from~~ <sup>of</sup> the  
principle of Association remain  
yet to be ~~examined~~ ~~it~~ applied to  
medicine.

39  
well as <sup>blistering</sup> ~~in exciting the system~~ this <sup>as is</sup> as yet  
limited by <sup>ancient</sup> habits of & forms of  
prescription. Frictions, Exercise  
& even Labor, as remedies are  
equally administered by ancient  
measures. <sup>Let us</sup> ~~It becomes us to forget~~  
all that we learned upon these &  
other articles of the Materia Medica,  
and ~~take them again~~ <sup>to</sup> prescribe  
them in doses ~~and~~ that shall accord  
with our present Systems of Medicine.  
We have too long hugged the our na-  
-tive shores of <sup>in medicine -</sup> ~~ignorance & prejudice~~.  
Let us attempt a voyage of dis-  
-cussion in navigation in medicine. The  
prejudice which has lately attended the



V and mercury which once so ~~forbidden~~<sup>tempting</sup> to  
sick people, has become in many families, a  
common Domestic medicine. ~~Let us be~~  
~~enamored by the~~

more general & copious use <sup>to mercury</sup> 40  
~~extension~~ of the remedies of blood letting,  
in malignant fevers,  
~~in this city~~, should encourage us  
to <sup>similar in rapidity in the</sup> ~~the more liberal use~~ of other

remedies. — The prejudices against

the lancet will <sup>now</sup> ~~never~~ sleep with

the fears which formerly prevailed

against cool air, & cold water in

fevers, <sup>✓</sup> for the same <sup>as</sup> Physicians

who a few years ago beheld, <sup>with ~~larged~~ ~~dissemination~~</sup> <sup>with horror</sup> a

stream of blood flowing from the

arm of a patient <sup>with</sup> in certain fevers,

<sup>it was</sup> ~~because~~ <sup>it was</sup> forbidden by <sup>W. H. W. H. W. H.</sup> Allen & Brown,

now, prescribe the loss of pounds

of blood in the same fevers with

without fear, and with nearly univer-

sal success. —





To ensure the certainty that  
 has been predicted in medicine,  
 it will be necessary to investigate  
 and establish principles in our  
 science. ~~But~~ <sup>was</sup> it possible  
 for a Physician to attain to  
 the "antichurian age," & to ~~add~~  
~~ascertain~~ collect facts during  
 the whole of that time, they  
 would be useless to him them-  
 selves they were <sup>combined</sup> ~~connected by~~ &  
 arranged by means of princi-  
ples of some kind. Experience  
 without the philosophy in



✓ Senses are employed to judge between  
truth & error. — Connected

Medicine, is nothing but empiri-

-icism, and however much the

Contradictions of theories, <sup>or the Uncertainty of human Reason in</sup> may be

<sup>Medicine</sup> ~~complained off~~, I <sup>am satisfied</sup> maintain it

that there are more Contradic-

tions to be met with in books

upon <sup>those</sup> ~~the~~ Subjects <sup>in</sup> of which ~~are~~ <sup>the</sup>

~~obvious to the senses of Physicians.~~

~~There are in all professions certain~~

~~and~~ words which are used to

impose upon the credulity of

man kind. [Conscience in religion,

honor ~~is~~ was, and liberty ~~is~~

have been ~~the~~ long been employed

~~to~~ played





for this purpose in religion —  
 was, & government. <sup>word</sup> ~~The~~ <sup>reason</sup>  
Experience has been the pros-  
 titute of medicine. [connected  
 with <sup>the science of medicine</sup> ~~theory~~ principles, ~~it~~ may  
 be compared to the ~~stately~~ pillars  
 of a magnificent building, but  
 without them, it resembles  
 the materials of the same build-  
 -ing scattered in a confused man-  
 -ner in a yard, so that the relation  
 of <sup>none</sup> ~~no one~~ of them to each other  
 can be known. It is by means  
 of principles in medicine that  
 a Physician can practise with





safety to his <sup>44</sup>patients ~~practice~~ or satisfaction  
to himself. — They impart bold-  
ness to alternately to all his  
prescriptions. They ~~inspire him~~ <sup>enable him</sup>  
~~to enfold the diffidence~~  
~~with confidence in~~ supply the  
want of experience in all new  
cases. — [They ~~elevate him above~~  
~~fatigue teach him to look~~  
~~down upon the~~ <sup>with contempt</sup> ~~harmful dulness~~  
~~of and pomp of~~ <sup>medicine</sup> ~~and trifling~~  
~~and impudence of quacks, and~~  
~~improvements whether they ever~~  
~~use these arts with or without~~  
~~diplomats.~~ They elevate him  
above fatigue, and support  
him under the drudgery, mor-  
tifications





of the profession. — Between such  
 a Physician, and the mere plodder  
 in medicine, there is the same  
 difference, that there was between  
 Sir Isaac Newton after he com-  
 pleted his discoveries in light &  
 colors, and the Artist who manu-  
 factured the glasses by which  
 that <sup>illustrious philosopher</sup> ~~established~~ exemplified his  
 principles in Optics. — After  
 this Account of the necessity, &  
 Advantages of principles in medicine  
 you will not be surprised Gent:  
 at my declaring, that my duty  
 and inclinations unite to



✓ But in this arduous business, I shall  
not labour alone. I anticipate the  
most vigorous support ~~from~~ to my  
principles from the doctrines which  
will be taught from the ~~chemical~~  
Chair <sup>of Chemistry & Materia medica</sup> by my colleagues  
~~by my very powerful friend Dr Wood:~~  
~~& Dr Barton~~  
= house. I ~~congratulate~~ late Gent: ~~upon their~~  
~~appointment~~. I know <sup>the</sup> ~~their~~ talents &  
qualifications <sup>of those gentlemen</sup> ~~to be equal to~~, &  
I am not afraid to promise forthwith  
that they will not disappoint the expec-  
= tations of their friends & the public. =

we live Gent: in a revolutionary  
age. Medicine has caught the spirit  
of the times. The system of Dr Boerhaave  
which had subjugated the greatest part  
of Europe & all America, yielded about 30  
years ago to the system of Dr Cullen. Its  
~~triumph was of short duration~~

as far as possible 46 philosophy  
determine me, to teach the theory  
of medicine from this Chair. I  
know the difficulty of the Under-  
-taking. <sup>✓</sup> This great man's ~~this~~  
~~The Physicians of Great~~  
~~Empire in medicine, have~~  
~~present day are~~ <sup>has</sup> ~~been~~  
lately been disputed by the ingenious Dr.  
~~between the systems of Dr. Brown~~  
~~Brown. Dr. Huxham & Dr. Brown. The~~  
~~of them~~  
One is altogether erroneous, and  
~~as one of them is altogether true.~~  
It shall be my business to as-  
<sup>I shall endeavour</sup>  
far as I am able, to expose  
the errors, & to establish the  
truths contained in <sup>each of these</sup> ~~each of them.~~  
<sup>systems</sup>  
~~I shall~~ ~~add to supply their defects~~  
by the detail of principles which



business ~~and business~~, I shall not  
labour alone. I anticipate ~~for the~~  
a vigorous <sup>to my principles,</sup>  
~~instruction and support~~ from the  
<sup>my former pupil</sup>  
doctrines which will be taught by  
~~from the chemical chair by my~~  
~~the Professor of Chemistry, who will~~  
former pupil Dr Woodhouse.  
~~to-morrow~~ I congratulate you gent.  
~~the whole republic of science~~ I know  
upon his appointment. His talents  
and I  
qualifications ~~are~~ <sup>to be</sup> equal to it. ~~He will~~  
not afraid to promise <sup>for him</sup> that he will  
not disappoint the expectations of his  
friends or the public.

We live in a revolutionary age.  
medicine has happily caught the spirit  
of the times. Dr Brown has demolished  
the system of his immediately predecessor  
Dr ~~Fuller~~, <sup>without</sup> ~~but he has~~ substituted  
- ~~thing~~ better one in its room.

have been the result of the observations, and, — [I am not ashamed thus publicly to acknowledge, & of the mistakes both in principle & practice, of ~~four~~ <sup>more</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~more~~ <sup>more</sup> ~~thirty~~ <sup>more</sup> years. — In this difficult

[But who am I, or what <sup>thus</sup> were my fathers, that I should attempt to teach new principles in ~~medicine to expose a single error~~ <sup>medicine?</sup> ~~or to establish a single truth in~~ <sup>gent.</sup>

~~medicine~~ <sup>aspects</sup> — Ascribe not the boldness of the Undertaking, ~~to or~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>force</sup> ~~of its execution~~, to any thing in the faculties of my mind gent: different, or superior to your own, but resolve it wholly





sovereign

48

into the pleasure of that Being,  
who often makes use of weak in-  
struments to accomplish the  
purposes of his goodness to man-  
kind, in order <sup>thereby to</sup> ~~that~~ prevent  
a competition for the honor of  
such events, between his power  
and that ~~talents~~ of his creatures.  
Thus a ~~shep~~ Shepherd boy with  
a sling and a stone, destroyed the  
pride and strength & pride of a  
formidable Army, and thereby  
became the instrument of saving  
a whole nation. —

From a review of the subject



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From a review of the subject <sup>of</sup> this lecture  
of this lecture, Gent: I ~~am~~ <sup>with</sup> natu-  
rally led to conclude ~~with~~ <sup>by</sup> ad-  
dressing to you a few ~~articles~~ the  
following reflections. —

1 ~~Science~~ has certainty been attained  
in the cure of <sup>apart of the</sup> ~~any~~ diseases, <sup>of the human body;</sup> then ~~can~~  
~~to be~~ study those diseases, & their remedies  
carefully, otherwise you will be crimi-  
nal in not being able to cure them.

~~Those~~  
— Physicians are ~~all~~ always culpable

~~who~~  
2 If certainty attainable in the cure  
of all diseases, then renounce every  
pursuit that ~~shall~~ <sup>can</sup> interfere with  
your exertions  
~~your studies, and endeavors~~ to  
open their mortality.  
~~reduce the number of those diseases.~~





~~which still~~ <sup>Subject of</sup> It has long been a  
 controversy among Divines, whether  
 perfection be attainable in morals <sup>in</sup>  
~~this world~~. - ~~It is~~ However this con-  
 -troversy may be decided, I <sup>advance</sup> use  
 the belief of it is calculated to moral  
 Order & happiness in the world. In  
 like manner a belief in the certainty  
<sup>medicine</sup> ~~of medicine~~ <sup>or profession</sup> is calculated to promote  
 its improvement & perfection <sup>in medicine</sup>.  
~~the perfection of or profession.~~

[Much of your future ~~success~~  
 & comfort in life gent: will depend  
 upon the manner in which you  
 employ the approaching season  
 for instruction. I have heard



2

~~to enter~~

1

July 18  
H

It said that every barrel of sugar  
manufactured in the West Indies  
costs a human life. — with equal  
certainty I fear it may be said, that

every dollar and evening that <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~  
<sup>improperly</sup> spent by a student of Physic at ~~the~~  
~~place of~~ ~~theatre~~, will cost the life  
a patient. ~~It is~~ <sup>not</sup> <sup>my</sup> business

to decide upon the morality or im-  
morality of <sup>public</sup> ~~these~~ amusements, but

as far as they employ money that  
might be applied to purchase medi-

cal books, or time that might be  
employed in reading, or <sup>studying</sup> ~~revising~~

~~lectures~~ the subjects of the lectures of  
the day, they ~~become~~ <sup>certainly</sup> are criminal





in a  
to the student of medicine. Read & write.

think - observe - observe - think  
and read. — I submit all my opinions

to your strictest examination. I do  
not ask, for may more I <sup>Do not</sup> ~~will not~~  
wish them to be  
~~admit of being~~ <sup>being</sup> adopted,

unless they are thoroughly examined,

and perfectly understood. With these  
<sup>remarks</sup>  
~~declarations~~, I resume the labors &

studies of the winter. <sup>I have only to</sup> ~~respectfully begging~~  
~~implying the great presence of~~

~~that it may please the Father of~~

all my best wishes that we may each of us be

~~enabled to conduct each of us~~

conducted by the hand of heaven. This <sup>of lectures</sup>

to the conclusion of ~~our~~ course, in

the same <sup>comfortable circumstances of health</sup> ~~state of health~~ in which

& other things

we have begun it. —



